AN ADDRESS TO THE *LANDED INTEREST* OF GREAT BRITAIN,

ON THE PRESENT STATE OF THE DISTILLERY.

BY THE FARMERS IN SCOTLAND.

YE generous Britons! venerate the Plough;
And o'er your hills, and long withdrawing vales,
Let Autumn ſpread her treaſures to the Sun,
Luxuriant and unbounded. —— ——
So, with ſuperior boon, may your rich ſoil,
Exuberant, Nature's better bleſſings pour
O'er every Land, the naked Nations clothe,
And be th' exhauſtleſs granary of a World!

THOMSON.

EDINBURGH:
PRINTED FOR WILLIAM CREECH,

M,DCC,LXXXVI.

Rec 2127.26.2091

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE calculations in the following Addreſs, pointing out the advantages that would attend connecting the diſtillation of corn-ſpirits with the agriculture of Great Britain, having been laid before a committee of farmers, appointed on purpoſe to examine them, were approved of, and ordered to be inſerted in the Addreſs as they preſently appear.

AN

AN

ADDRESS, &c.

AT a period, when * four ſucceſſive bad crops have ſtripped a great number of the farmers in Scotland of a conſiderable ſhare of that capital, which they employed in the cultivation and improvement of their farms—we are aſtoniſhed to find that an almoſt total ſtop is put to the ſale of our barley, notwithſtanding that the laſt crop of that grain was the

* The crops here alluded to are 1782, 1783, 1784, and 1785. Crop 1784 proved good in England, but was miſerably bad in Scotland, particularly in the wheat, barley, and peaſe. In that year, the writer of this note, although ſituated in Eaſt Lothian, within leſs than four miles from the ſhore, went out in a morning to cut down beans and barley, when the mercury in the thermometer ſtood at ſix degrees below the freezing point on Farenheit's ſcale, the texture of the grain was entirely deſtroyed, there being a thin cake of ice betwixt the lobs of almoſt every bean in the field.

the moſt deficient that this country has ever experienced.

In this diſtreſſing ſituation, we eſteem it our duty to lay before our landlords a ſtate of our grievances, having full confidence in the generous ſupport of the landed intereſt, and in the abilities of thoſe noblemen and gentlemen who preſently repreſent this part of the united kingdom in Parliament.

When any country is afflicted with a bad crop, the loſs ought undoubtedly to be ſuſtained by every member of the community, in proportion to his abilities: But, in that event, as the high price of grain has the effect to leſſen the demand for it in the market, the farmer can never obtain an advanced price equivalent to the deficiency of his crop, by which means the greateſt portion of the loſs falls upon the huſbandman, and which, after four ſcanty crops, is ſeverely felt by us all.

When-

Whenever, therefore, any cauſe operates ſo as to leſſen the demand for grain, and ſink its value in the market below its proper ſtandard, being the price proportioned to the goodneſs or badneſs of the crop, that cauſe will always prove injurious to agriculture, and, at this critical juncture, may be attended with ruinous effects to many tenants, which it is certainly the intereſt of the proprietors of land in general to avert; by uſing every means in their power to remove the cauſes which occaſion the evil; amongſt the greateſt of which may be ranked the preſent Exciſe laws for regulating and raiſing a revenue from the diſtillation of corn ſpirits, and which, as they have brought the preſent diſtreſs on the farmers, ought to be the firſt to merit the particular attention of the landed intereſt.

By theſe laws no diſtiller can extract ſpirits from grain of the growth of Great Britain, unleſs he is poſſeſſed of a capital which

which will enable him to carry on his buſineſs, by uſing a ſtill which muſt contain upwards of four hundred gallons; nor can any perſon export Britiſh corn ſpirits unleſs they were diſtilled in a ſtill which will hold ſixteen hundred.

Stills of every denomination are kept locked by the Exciſemen, and the diſtiller muſt ſend them twelve hours previous notice before he can get his ſtills opened, and muſt begin to work at a certain hour, although it is abſolutely impoſſible to determine before hand at what particular time his work will be in the fitteſt ſtate for yielding the greateſt quantity of ſpirits of the beſt quality: Fermentation being of a precarious nature, and depending much on the ſtate of the weather, and which nice operation is at preſent frequently injured by the Exciſemen opening the waſh batches where the fermentation is carried on, and allowing the gas or fixed air to eſcape.

Di-

Diſtillers muſt work off their ſtills in twenty hours after they are opened, although the cold water uſed in the operation ſhould prove inſufficient, which renders their ſpirits totally unfit for uſe.

If any diſtiller ſends out his ſpirits to a rectifier of a greater degree of ſtrength than one to ten over hydrometer proof, ſuch ſpirits are liable to be ſeized; a regulation which muſt often prove vexatious to the diſtillers, as the hydrometer proof varies with the temperature of the air.

If any diſtiller ſhall extract more than twenty gallons of ſpirits of the ſtrength of one to ten over hydrometer proof out of 100 gallons of waſh, all ſuch ſurplus quantities ſhall be ſeized by the exciſe-officer, and forfeited.

The duty preſently levied on corn ſpirits is fivepence on the gallon of waſh; but there is an exemption in favour of George

Biſhop

Biſhop of Medſton, who is allowed to diſtil corn ſpirits under the name of *Medſton Geneva*, upon paying only twopence halfpenny *per* gallon.

The facility and diſpatch with which corn ſpirits can be diſtilled, the temptation to evade the high duties, and the impoſſibility of afterwards diſtinguiſhing the ſpirits that have paid the duty from thoſe which have not, has hitherto prevented, and will always obſtruct government in ſecuring payment of the whole of the duties impoſed on that article. Rigorous laws have therefore been enacted, and ſevere penalties inflicted, which, in the hands of ſome officers of Exciſe, have only ſerved as engines of diſtruction to cruſh various individuals, without contributing in the leaſt to increaſe the revenue, but which, on the contrary, has of late been conſiderably diminiſhed *.

But,

* Mr Pitt complained when he brought in the laſt diſtillery law, that the revenue from the article of corn ſpirits had fallen near one half.

But, if the enforcing of theſe laws, even with the deſign of encreaſing the revenue, has the effect at any time to put a ſtop to the ſale of barley, it muſt be acknowledged that there is ſomething fundimentally wrong in them, which can bring ſuch general diſtreſs on the huſbandmen, who certainly merit from this country an equal ſhare of encouragement with the manufacturing part of the nation.

That there are ſubſtantial reaſons for wiſhing a repeal of thoſe laws, appears evident from the conduct of the Commiſſioners of Exciſe, who, owing to ſome impelling power, (as is conjectured), were obliged to act in the manner they have done for ſome time paſt, in inforcing the diſtillery laws in this country.

For laſt winter that Board * ordered three additional exciſe-officers to be placed only

 upon

* The order here alluded to was to the following purpoſe: That all thoſe diſtillers in Scotland who would

upon ſuch diſtillers as would not carry on their buſineſs to the extent which they were pleaſed to point out; by which means all thoſe ſmall diſtillers that were diſperſed through the country, and afforded to the farmers a ready market for their crops of barley and hay, and ſupplied us with ſpirits diſtilled from the produce of our own ſoil, and who, for want of capital and other conveniencies, could not comply with the order from the Board, were obliged to give over their buſineſs to the great prejudice of the farmers.

Whilſt

would not charge their ſtills four times in the week, and pay duty accordingly, ſhould have four exciſemen placed upon them to watch them, night and day. In conſequence of this order every diſtiller, with a ſmall capital, was obliged to give over buſineſs, becauſe they could neither procure barley from the farmers, nor conſumpt for their ſpirits, to enable them to comply with the order from the Board; and it was as impoſſible for them to go on with their trade with the watchmen, becauſe in that event they would have been obliged to pay a much larger portion of the tax than the great diſtillers, who conſequently could underſell them in the ſpirit market.

Whilſt another claſs of diſtillers were allowed to proceed in a manner without controul, thereby monopolizing the trade into a few hands, and which not only enabled them to ſupply the whole of the demand for ſpirits in Scotland, but alſo to ſend up large quantities to the London market.

It is, however, evident, that the above mentioned order from the Board of Exciſe, was by no means intended either to increaſe the revenue, or put a ſtop to the practice of evading payment of the duties on corn ſpirits; for, after the exciſe laws had been made the engines of power to cruſh the ſmall diſtillers, after their trade had been totally ſtopped, and thoſe favoured diſtillers, who alone were allowed to go on with the buſineſs, had got the total command of ſupplying the Scots market with ſpirits; at that very period, the price of corn ſpirits in Scotland fell 25 *per cent.*; a proof that at no former time had

had the evading of the duties been carried to ſo great a length *.

In this ſituation was the diſtillery buſineſs conducted in Scotland during the whole of ſpring 1785, and the preceding winter: But during laſt ſummer the Commiſſioners judged it expedient to place three additional exciſemen on every diſtiller in Scotland who was then carrying on trade. But this regulation had a very different effect from the former. Several of the large diſtillers, who, by complying with the requiſition

* It will appear paradoxical at firſt ſight, that, after four or five great diſtillers had obtained a monopoly of the trade, they ſhould have allowed the price of ſpirits to fall. The reaſon is obvious. Theſe great diſtillers, in complying with the order from the Board of Exciſe, were obliged to diſtill a large additional quantity of ſpirits; they could not, however, allow this great quantity to remain on hand, or enter their ſtocks, becauſe it would have been ſeized by the officers of exciſe; they were therefore obliged to puſh it off at a low rate; but if they had been ſituated, like the London diſtillers, in the heart of the market, they would have been under no ſuch neceſſity.

quiſition of the Board, had been allowed to carry on a briſk buſineſs through the ſpring and preceding winter, now ſhut ſhop; the price of corn ſpirits roſe near 40 *per cent.* above what they had been ſold at by particular diſtillers during the winter; and ſo much did the high price of ſpirits encourage the ſmuggling in of Dutch gin and brandy, that theſe articles have for ſome time been currently ſold at much lower rates than for ſeveral years paſt, owing to the officers of exciſe being entirely taken up with watching the diſtillers, which took off the whole of their attention from preventing the illegal importation and ſale of foreign ſpirits *.

In this diſtreſſing ſituation the buſineſs continued till towards the end of December laſt,

* The above is a truth, whatever the Board of Exciſe may aſſert. *Vide* FACTS.

I can give you no whiſky, ſaid my hoſt in a country inn, becauſe the diſtilleries are all ſtopped: But, God be praiſed, you ſhall have as much good Dutch gin as you can ſet your face to.

laſt, when the Board of Exciſe iſſued out another mandate, calling off the three additional exciſemen from every diſtiller in Scotland, thoſe only excepted that ſend up ſpirits to the London market, on whom they continue to place four exciſemen, who watch them conſtantly night and day *.

It therefore now appears, that the moving power which impelled the Board of Exciſe to act in the inconſiſtent manner they have done for ſome time paſt, muſt proceed from the weight of the diſtillers in the city of London, who have had the addreſs and the influence to get ſuch diſtillery laws enacted as gives them a total monopoly of the buſineſs in England, the whole trade

* Since writing the above, it is ſaid that the Board of Exciſe have withdrawn the three additional exciſemen from the greateſt diſtiller in Scotland. Oh! there are ſuch marchings and countermarchings, from Brentford to Elin, from Elin to Acton, from Acton to Uxbridge, that many a *good exciſe officer*, like Major Moloſſas, is carried off ——— an irreparable loſs to the ſervice.

trade being in a manner confined to the city of London, and enables them to cruſh, with the oppreſſion of moſt rigorous laws, thoſe particular diſtillers in Scotland who ſend up ſpirits to the London market; for, living in the centre of the greateſt market in Britain themſelves, they have daily opportunities of diſpoſing, without permit, of that part of their ſpirits which they diſtil without paying any duty; whereas, thoſe that are ſituated at a diſtance, muſt pay duty for every gallon they ſend to that market. But what ſets this matter in the cleareſt point of view, is the following fact: The monopoliſts, in framing the laſt law, in order to diſtreſs the poor diſtillers in Scotland, got a clauſe inſerted, obliging every diſtiller to fill his ſtill three-fourths full of waſh, which regulates the charge of duty conform to act of parliament; and which clauſe is rigidly inforced in Scotland. But the London diſtillers, we are informed, are charged with the duty as if they only filled their ſtills half full of waſh; an allowance

lowance granted them expreſsly contrary to the words of the ſtatute above mentioned *.

It

* The above mentioned fact comes from the Scots diſtillers. Mr Aitchiſon has always publicly declared, that Mr Paine, one of the greateſt diſtillers in the city of London, informed Mr Haig, that they filled their ſtills in London half full of waſh, and were charged with duty accordingly; and that afterwards they were allowed to fill them up with water. It muſt be acknowledged, that this fact has rather the appearance of ſome miſtake in the parties. It is, however, certain, that, at a general meeting of the great diſtillers, held in Edinburgh, where Meſſrs Steens, Haig, and, Aitchiſon, were preſent, amongſt other grievances this was pointed out, and it was propoſed to ſend up an agent to London, to complain of the partiality ſhewn to the London diſtillers; it is therefore here inſerted that the matter may be inveſtigated, which can be eaſily done, by only comparing the entries in the exciſe-books, with the contents of the diſtillers ſtills: For the clauſe inſerted in the act of parliament, obliging diſtillers to fill their ſtills three-fourths full of waſh, was abſolutely neceſſary to prevent the moſt flagrant abuſes that were committed by diſtillers in general, and which only became particularly diſtreſſing to the ſmall diſtillers in Scotland, on account of their being obliged to work with ſtills ten times larger than they had any occaſion for.

It was the influence alſo of thoſe gentlemen, who, aiming at a complete monopoly of the manufacture of corn-ſpirits in Britain, fixed the minimum, or ſmalleſt ſize of the ſtill, at 400 gallons; a regulation which muſt prove very hurtful to the revenue, as, by eſtabliſhing a monopoly, it gives great encouragement to the carrying on of clandeſtine diſtillation in private unentered ſtills, and prevents the landed intereſt and farmers from reaping the advantages which will always attend the diſtillation of corn-ſpirits, when fixed upon the ſame fair and equal footing with any other manufacture in the kingdom.

To the ſame influence may be placed the obtaining that moſt extraordinary law of 2d Geo. III. prohibiting the exportation of Britiſh corn-ſpirits, unleſs they are diſtilled in a ſtill containing 1600 gallons; an act of parliament which ought to have been entitled, A Barrier Treaty for ſecuring to the gentlemen diſtillers in the city of Lon-

don the ſole right of furniſhing the merchants in Britain with ſpirits for exportation, and which is calculated to give them almoſt as complete a monopoly of the export trade, as if they had been erected into a company on purpoſe, by letters patent, with as excluſive privileges as the Eaſt India Company.

But although the laws of this free country may with propriety countenance a monopoly in favours of a company that ſupply us with Aſiatic luxuries; if, notwithſtanding, they, in the ſmalleſt degree, eſtabliſh a monopoly in the purchaſe of the produce of the ſoil, in favours of any claſs or deſcription of men, either by limiting the number of purchaſers or otherwiſe, ſuch laws will always prove hurtful to agriculture.

We beg that the landed intereſt will advert to the wretched ſituation of the huſbandmen, and even proprietors of the land, in

in thoſe countries where monopolies of the produce of the ſoil are eſtabliſhed; and, feeling ourſelves threatened with the ſame evil, we call upon our landlords to relieve us from our diſtreſs, by obtaining a repeal of the preſent diſtillery laws, and to get ſuch enacted as will not only ſecure a revenue to government, but alſo give uninterrupted encouragement to the induſtry of the farmer.

That theſe laws cramp the induſtry of Great Britain is beyond a doubt; for, were they inforced in our Weſt India iſlands, they would check their cultivation, by effectually preventing the diſtillation of rum. Was France to adopt them, ſhe would ruin the cultivation of her vines; and by thoſe laws is Great Britain prevented from cultivating her waſte lands, from rearing and fattening immenſe herds of oxen, for victualling her numerous fleets, and from raiſing large additional quantities of grain, either

either for ſupplying the home market, or for exportation.

They alſo prevent us from manufacturing the whole of the barley which is at preſent produced in Britain, and oblige us to pay the Dutch a bounty for taking it off our hands, ſecuring to them the advantages of diſtilling it, and who ſmuggle it in upon our coaſts, converted into ſpirits of a ſuperior quality to any made in this country.

But, from what cauſe does the inferior quality of Britiſh corn-ſpirits originate? Is not the temperature of the climate of Britain the moſt favourable in the world for producing at all times a proper fermentation on worts extracted from barley and other grain? Are not malt liquors *, ſo juſtly deſcribed by the poet, the glory of England,

* I have now in my cellar ten tons of the beſt ale in Staffordſhire; 'tis ſmooth as oil, ſweet as milk, clear as amber, and ſtrong as brandy, and will be juſt fourteen years old the fifth day of March, old ſtile.

Beaux Stratagem, act 1. *ſc.* 1.

England, and ſtand unrivalled by other nations; and the ſame cauſe would undoubtedly produce corn-ſpirits of the beſt quality, if it was not for ruinous diſtillery laws*.

To

* How widely different from Bonniface does the diſtillery laws oblige the diſtiller to manage his ſtock. As the law is preſently framed, without an expence that would nearly ſink the revenue altogether, it is abſolutely impoſſible to oblige every individual to pay an equal ſhare of the duties. In order, therefore, that they may come upon equal terms to market, every one of them rack their inventions in diſcovering the moſt effectual modes of defrauding government; the ſpirits are conſequently hurried through the ſtills with aſtoniſhing rapidity, and, in the haſty operation, are mixed with moſt fetid oils. But, like Bonniface, can he keep them in his cellar till they are matured with age: By no means, they would be ſeized by the exciſe-officer, and are therefore ſent into the market, ſmoking hot from the ſtill, in ſuch a ſtate, that the perſon muſt be poſſeſſed with the fortitude of Socrates, who can ſwallow the contents of a cup without having the muſcles of his face diſtorted with convulſions. It is therefore no wonder that Bonniface was ſo much obliged to the Iriſh gentleman, who preſented his wife with

To prove them ſuch, let any miniſter in Great Britain adopt them, with ſimilar reſtrictions, for the purpoſe of raiſing a revenue from any other manufacture; we ſhall ſuppoſe by a tax of one ſhilling on every pound of cotton ſpun by the cotton-mills lately erected, machines equally productive with the ſtill, of articles of luxury and convenience.

For the better ſecuring of the revenue, it would then be enacted, that no cotton engine ſhall be erected, unleſs it could ſpin 400 pounds weight in one day.

That no cotton goods ſhall be exported, unleſs they were ſpun in a machine that could conſume 1600 pounds weight in the day.

That

with the dozen of uſquebaugh, the remarkable bad quality of which proceeded from its being Iriſh manufacture, and we may preſume was extracted from potatoes; for the good people of England now drink corn-ſpirits converted into moſt excellent French brandy, by only putting in a few drops of a certain compound, without its being in the leaſt prejudicial to their conſtitutions.

That the exciſe-officer ſhall have the total command of thoſe machines, and keep them carefully locked up.

That the manufacturer ſhall be obliged to ſend the exciſe-officer twelve hours notice before at any time he ſhall proceed to buſineſs, and ſhall then be obliged either to ſtop his operations at the end of twenty hours, or continue for other twenty hours, whether it ſuit him or not.

If the manufacturer ſhall ſpin a greater quantity of cotton in the ſpace of twenty hours, or from his ſuperior ſkill and ingenuity ſhall draw out of the rough materials a greater quantity of cotton-yarn than the law preſcribes; all ſuch ſurplus quantities ſhall be ſeized by the exciſe-officer.

That, for the better ſecuring of the revenue, all cotton ſhall be ſpun of one fineneſs; and if any ſhall be manufactured of a different quality from what the law preſcribes,

ſcribes, all ſuch ſhall be ſeized by the exciſe-officer.

That every manufacturer, who, for want of a capital or other conveniencies, cannot carry on his trade with machines of the ſize above mentioned, muſt give over buſineſs, and allow his ſmall ſpinning engines to be deſtroyed by the exciſe-officer, or be fined for uſing them.

It is obvious, that, if any miniſter was to propoſe ſuch a tax, attended with ſuch rigorous reſtrictions, that the mercantile and manufacturing part of the nation would moſt juſtly oppoſe it. The Weſt India planters would alſo join in the outcry, and complain that it would cramp the cultivation of their eſtates. But, however ruinous theſe laws might prove to the cotton-manufacture, it is evident they are more hurtful to the agriculture of Great Britain, when applied to the manufacture of corn-ſpirits; for cotton is the produce of a foreign

reign country, can be eaſily tranſported to whatever part of the kingdom the monopoly is eſtabliſhed, and returns no manure, ſo neceſſary in the cultivation of the ſoil.

It is true, indeed, that cotton is the produce of our colonies: But it is to be hoped, that this country has now learned, from dear bought experience, that the fruits to be reaped, from encouraging the cultivation of colonies, are vain and imaginary; and that the proſperity of the ſtate muſt in a great meaſure depend upon that degree of perfection to which the cultivation of the mother country can be brought.

For accelerating this great national object, we ſhall lay before the public the good effects which may be expected from connecting the diſtillation of corn-ſpirits with the agriculture of this country, and which is only prevented at preſent, by laws that ſacrifice the public good, for the ſole

purpoſe of advancing the intereſt of a few rich individuals.

We therefore ſubmit to the conſideration of every perſon verſant in country affairs, the following ſcheme of a rotation of crops on a farm, containing 168 acres, of a clay ſoil, and poor quality, ſituated at a diſtance from a populous town, where no adventitious manure can be procured; and the probable produce of the ſame farm, when connected with a ſmall diſtillery, capable of feeding 30 oxen, and 60 hogs, conſtantly, and which a ſtill of 50 Engliſh gallons is well able to perform, 10,400 ſtones of hay being annually conſumed in fattening the cattle on the farm.

Scheme

Scheme of rotation of crops, and account of produce reſulting therefrom.

On the farm without the diſtillery.

Produce in Scots meaſures and weights.

Farm containing 168 acres.

Acres.	Quality of Grain.	Produce per acre.	Total produce.	Price at the Edinburgh market.			
			Bolls.	s.	d.	L.	s.
* 12	Fallow						
12	Wheat	7 Bolls	84	18	10	79	2
12	Peaſe	3	36	11	10	21	6
12	Barley	5	60	13	4	40	0
12	Hay	130 ſtone	1560		3½	22	15
12	Paſture			20		12	0
12	Oats	6 bolls	72	12		43	4
† 12	Fallow						
12	Oats	7 bolls	84	12		50	8
12	Hay	120 ſtone	1440		3½	21	0
12	Paſture			20	0	12	0
12	ditto			15	0	9	0
12	ditto			15	0	9	0
12	Oats	5 bolls	60	12	0	36	0
Total amount of the produce						L. 355	15

Produce

* Dunged with 22 cart loads per acre.

† Without manure.

Produce in Engliſh meaſures and weights.

Farm containing 213 acres.

Acres.	Quality of Grain.	Produce per acre.	Total produce.	Correſponding price at the Edinburgh market.
* 15	Fallow	qrs. buſh.	qrs.	s. d.
15	Wheat	2 7	44	36 0 qr. Wincheſter
15	Peaſe	1 2	18¾	22 5
15	Barley	3 0	45¾	17 1
15	Hay	1 load 1½ *cwt.*	16¾	27 2 per London load
15	Paſture			15 8
15	Oats	3 5 bolls	54½	15 5
† 15	Fallow			
15	Oats	4 1	63½	15 5
15	Hay	1 load	15½	27 2 per London load
15	Paſture			15 8 per acre
15	ditto			11 9
15	ditto			11 9
15	Oats	3 qrs.	45¾	15 5 per quarter.

Scheme

* Dunged with 17 loads per acre.

† Without manure.

Scheme of rotation of crops, and probable produce on the ſame farm, when connected with a ſmall diſtillery, carrying on trade with a ſtill of 50 Engliſh gallons, the revenue being collected by a licence on the contents of the ſtill), which, with the quantity of hay allowed, being 10,400 ſtone, or about 112 London loads, will feed conſtantly 30 oxen, weighing on an average 30 ſtone each, and 60 hogs.

Produce in Scots meaſure and weights.

Acres.	Quality.	Produce per acre.	Total produce.	Price.		Value at the Edinburgh market.		
* 22	Fallow		Bolls	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.
22	Wheat	9 bolls	198	18	10	186	9	0
22	Beans	7 do.	154	11	8	91	2	4
22	Barley	7 do.	154	13	4	102	13	4
† 22	Clov. hay	200 ſt.	4400		3½	64	3	4
22	Wheat	8 bolls	176	18	10	165	14	8
22	Oats	8	176	12	0	105	12	0
14	Paſture			20	0	14	0	0
Amount of the produce of the ſoil						L. 729	14	8

Pro-

* Dunged with 34 loads per acre.

† Dunged with 20 loads.

Produce in Engliſh meaſures and weights.

Acres.	Quality.	Produce per acre.	Total produce.	Correſponding price at the Edinburgh market
		qrs. buſh.	Bolls.	s. d.
* 28	Fallow			
28	Wheat	3 6	103¾	36 p. Wincheſt. qr.
28	Beans	2 7	80¼	22 5 per ditto
28	Barley	4 1	116½	17 1 per ditto
		load cwt.		
† 28	Hay clover	1 13	47¼	27 2 per London load
		qrs. buſh.	bolls.	
28	Wheat	3 2	92	36 0 per Wincheſt. qr.
28	Oats	4 6	133	15 5 per ditto
17	Paſture			15 8 per acre.

To the amount of the produce of the farm, when connected with the diſtillery L. 729 14 8

To the value of 30 oxen, 30 ſtones each, fed 4 months, at L. 8 L. 240 0 0

To the value of 30 oxen, 30 ſtones each, fed 4 months, at L. 8 240 0 0

Carried over L. 480 0 0 L. 729 14 8

* Dunged with 27 loads per acre.

† Dunged with 16 loads per acre.

Brought over	L. 480	0	0	L. 729	14	8
To the value of 30 oxen, 30 ſtones each, fed 4 months, at L. 8	240	0	0			
	L. 720	0	0			
Deduct coſt price, when purchaſed at L. 5 each,	450	0	0			
Gained by feeding, being about 5 d. per day on each ox -	L. 270	0	0			
Deduct hay conſumed in fattening the oxen, viz.						
3000 ſtones purchaſed from neighbouring farmers at 4 d.	50	0	0			
3000 ditto at 3 d.	37	10	0			
4,400 ditto produced on the farm at $3\frac{1}{4}$ d.	64	3	4			
	L. 151	13	4			
				L. 118	6	8
To the value of 60 hogs, fed for 6 months	L. 90	0	0			
To ditto for ditto	90	0	0			
	L. 180	0	0			
Carried over	L. 180	0	0	L. 848	1	4

Brought over	L.	180	0	0	L.	848	1 4
Deduct coſt price paid to the farmers 10s. each		60	0	0			
					L.	120	0 0
Total amount of produce, including profits on the cattle					L.	968	1 4
Deduct original produce on the farm without the diſtillery					L.	355	15 0
Gain ariſing from connecting the diſtillery with agriculture					L.	612	6 4

Although we have exhibited the above modes of croping as being proper on a clay ſoil, of a poor quality, we by no means hold them up as being the beſt calculated to produce either the greateſt profit to the farmer, or advantage to the ſtate. Particular modes of croping ought, undoubtedly, to be left to the judgment of the huſbandman, who, after many years experience, will probably diſcover the proper mode of croping, which beſt ſuits the particularities in the ſoil, climate, and ſituation of his farm.

Syſtems

Syſtems in agriculture are of all others the moſt futile and abſurd. We ſee the ſyſtems of the greateſt men in every ſcience daily attacked, and frequently overthrown: But in agriculture, the ſmall progreſs that has hitherto been made in the theory of the art; the infinite diverſity of ſoil and climate, and numberleſs accidents reſulting from both, to which the farmer is expoſed, has rendered the laying down ſyſtems in agriculture, not only hurtful to the country in general, but alſo to thoſe particular landlords who inforce them *.

* Theſe reſtrictious appear in full force in ſome parts of England. When a Scots farmer, croſſing the Tweed, views the native fertility of the ſoil, and compares the rich crops with the low rent of the land, he is at firſt ſtruck with aſtoniſhment: But when he begins to reflect on the burthens which the Engliſh farmers labour under, from the reſtrictions inſerted in their leaſes; the ſtill more oppreſſive laws of King Melchiſedeck; the great load of poors rates, and inconveniencies attending the militia in time of peace; he thanks his ſtars he was born on the north ſide of the Tweed; and, deviating for once from the rigid ſimplicity of his devotion,

We have only here in view the reſtrictions inſerted in ſome leaſes, where the tenant, from his entry, is bound down to follow particular modes of cultivation, thereby ſetting bounds to his genius and induſtry, and preventing improvements in an art, which, of all others, is the moſt uſeful to mankind.

We have therefore only to add, in defence of the annexed rotation of crops, that every article in the account is calculated on a moderate ſcale, without the ſmalleſt intention either to exaggerate or deceive; and we doubt not that every farmer, who poſſeſſes ſuch a farm as we have deſcribed, will, upon mature deliberation, acknowledge, whatever rotation of crops he may follow, that, was he enabled to feed 30 oxen and 60 hogs conſtantly, and conſume 10,400 additional ſtones of hay

devotion, joins in the liturgy of the Engliſh church, devoutly exclaiming from all ſuch evils—Good Lord deliver us!

hay annually; with the large ſurplus quantity of * manure ariſing therefrom, he would find no difficulty in doubling the quantity of grain produced on his farm.

We ſhall, therefore, proceed to examine the advantages that would accrue to the ſtate, if the ruinous fabric of oppreſſion and monopoly, reared up by the diſtillery laws, was fairly beat down by the united efforts of the landed intereſt in Great Britain, thereby allowing the manufacture of corn-ſpirits, and the agriculture of this country, to give moſt effectual aid to each other.

From

* The quantity of manure which the diſtillery affords, when joined with agriculture, is really moſt aſtoniſhing.—We beg the public will attend to the following fact: A great diſtiller, though not the greateſt in this country, publicly offered L. 200 Sterling to any perſon who would cart up his dung from the dunghill, and lay it down in ſmall heaps along the ridges, on the particular fields which he wiſhed to have manured. But this offer was rejected, as being, like the cleaning of the Augean ſtable, only fit to be performed by the Herculean labours of a great diſtiller.

* From the beſt information we have been able to procure, the barley conſumed in

* We do not pretend that the information in this particular is to be depended on. The quantity of grain which a diſtiller conſumes in his operations is concealed with the greateſt care. We have been informed, that in the city and vicinity of London there are eight diſtilleries, in each of which there is daily conſumed, on an average, 120 quarters in malt, barley, or other grain, and malt flour; and that they continue working every day, during eight months, for ſupplying the home market.

	quarters.
The above quantities will therefore amount, *per annum*, to about -	185,000
Six houſes continue working during three months in the ſummer ſeaſon for exportation, and maſh 70 quarters daily, or about	35,000
Suppoſe the reſt of England and Scotland to amount to - -	180,000
	400,000

Amount of the revenue ariſing from Britiſh ſpirits, from Michaelmas 1783 to Michaelmas 1784.

L. 16031 on Britiſh ſpirits, per duties impoſed at and prior to 29th September 1736
24,217 ditto 25th March 1743
9,799 —— 1746

in the diſtillation of corn-ſpirits may be eſtimated at 400,000 Wincheſter quarters: But

36,441	——	1ſt July 1751
100,152	——	21ſt April 1760
20,275	——	21ſt Jan. 1762
20,852	——	30th March 1780
8,486	on Low Wines,	29th Sept. 1736
10,061	ditto	25th March 1743
5,528	——	1746
14,447	——	1ſt July 1751
57,401	——	21ſt April 1760
11,668	——	21ſt Jan. 1762
11,943	——	30th May 1780
L. 347,301		
15 per cent. on ditto. 52,095		
L. 399,396		

This account of the revenue ariſing from Britiſh ſpirits, is taken from the Edinburgh magazine, and was publiſhed from good authority. The duties levied from ſpirits, extracted from molaſſes and other foreign and home materials, are included; ſo that it is impoſſible to diſtinguiſh the exact ſum paid upon corn-ſpirits. It is believed, however, that the revenue ariſing from the other materials is very inconſiderable: But from the total amount of the revenue, it is more than probable that a much larger quantity than 400,000 quarters of grain is annually diſtilled in Britain.

But if the trade was freed from the reſtrictions complained of, it would moſt undoubtedly increaſe, and might then be ſafely eſtimated at 500,000 quarters. Was the diſtillation of this quantity of grain to be diffuſed over the country, and produce the ſame good effects on agriculture in general, which the ſmall diſtillery had upon the farm as above ſtated; in that event there would be annually brought into the Britiſh markets the following additional numbers of fat cattle, and quantities of grain, viz.

Engliſh weights and meaſures.

	Correſponding prices at the Edinburgh market, on an average for 20 years
57,240 fat oxen, 37 ſtones 3 lib. each, 2,030,145 ſtones butcher meat, at 3 s. 2½ d	L. 341,710
400,680 ſtones tallow, 7 ſtones in each, at 4 s. 5 d. - -	88,483
57,240 hides, 5 ſtones each, valued at 20 s.	57,240
76,320 hogs, 7 ſtone 6 lib. 566,948 ſtones pork, at 4 s. ½ - -	113,980
Carried over	L. 601,413

Brought over	L.	601,413
96,513 quarters of wheat, at 36 s.		173,723
39,114 quarters of beans and peaſe, at 22 s. 5 d.		43,840
44,997 quarters of barley, at 17 s. 1 d.		38,434
	L.	857,410
Deduct deficiency in the produce of oats from connecting the diſtillery with agriculture, as above ſtated, on the produce of the farms.		
19,557 quarters of oats, at 15 s. 5 d.		15,075
Gained to the ſtate from connecting the diſtillation of 500,000 quarters of barley with agriculture. -	L.	842,335
500,000 quarters of barley, at 14 gallons of ſpirits per quarter, will produce 7,000,000 gallons, at 3 s. -		1,050,000
Total ſum that may be gained to the ſtate from the * manufacture of corn-ſpirits, if the monopoly was removed, and the diſtillery regulated by moderate exciſe laws	L.	1,892,335

Scots

* We hope the landed intereſt of Great Britain, in the event of a commercial treaty with France, will never allow this manufacture to be bartered away, for the privilege of peddling in that country needles and pins, and crockery ware.

Scots weights and meaſures, and prices of the beſt grain at the Edinburgh market, on an average, from *anno* 1761 to 1780, correſponding with the Engliſh weights and meaſures in the preceding pages, and from which the calculations were made out.

30 ſtones each ox, price 4 s. per ſtone.
$4\frac{1}{2}$ ſtones tallow in each, 6 s.
$3\frac{1}{4}$ each hide, 20 s.
6 ſtones each hog.
Wheat, 18 s. 10 d. per boll.
Peaſe, 11 s. 8 d.
Barley, 13 s. 4 d.
Oats, 12 s.

From what has been ſtated, we hope it will appear that the diſtillation of corn-ſpirits is of the utmoſt importance to Great Britain, when it is viewed both as an immenſe ſource from whence great improvements in agriculture may be drawn, and alſo as an ample fund for yielding a larger revenue for ſupport of the ſtate than has hitherto been collected from that manufacture.

For accompliſhing theſe important purpoſes, we moſt humbly recommend the following regulations to the conſideration of

of the miniſtry, and landed intereſt of Great Britain.

That the preſent diſtillery laws ought to be repealed, and the trade put upon the ſame fair and equal footing with any other manufacture in the kingdom affording a tax to government.

That, in lieu of the preſent mode of levying the duties, which, owing to the nature of the trade, can never be fairly nor equally collected, an ample revenue ſhall be raiſed, equal to what has been paid in moſt productive years, by a licenſe on the contents of every * ſtill uſed in Great Britain, either by diſtillers or rectifiers.

* The contents of the ſtills in England are ſuppoſed to be about 264,000 gallons.
and in Scotland 81,000

345,000 gallons.

But, if the revenue was collected upon the contents of the ſtill, the above mentioned quantity would be probably reduced to 100,000 gallons, which, at L. 5 per gallon,

That every diſtiller in Great Britain be prohibited from diſtilling from barley before it has been previouſly malted; a practice which hurts the quality of Britiſh corn ſpirits, and leſſens the revenue ariſing from the malt duty.

That the licenſe-duty on ſtills for manufacturing corn-ſpirits ſhould be ſo regulated, that the fair trader, who pays the licenſe-duty for his ſtill, and diſtills only from malted grain, may be enabled to ſell his ſpirits to the rectifiers at from 2s. 6d. to 3s. *per* gallon; by which means the ſmuggling of ſpirits, both foreign and domeſtic, ſo prejudicial to the revenue, and hurtful to the morals of the people, will be entirely put a ſtop to.

And

gallon, would produce L. 500,000. The proper criterion of the tax, however, is one which would allow the fair trader to ſell ſpirits to the rectifiers at from 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s. per gallon, which, it is conjectured, would raiſe a much larger revenue to government than L. 500,000.

And for rendering the diſtillery buſineſs more beneficial to the ſtate, by aiding the agriculture of the country, and encouraging the cultivation of the * waſte lands, for which it is particularly well adapted, let

* It ſeems impoſſible to adopt a plan for cultivating the waſte lands in Great Britain that will be conducted at leſs expence to the ſtate, or has the proſpect of being attended with greater ſucceſs, than by giving encouragement to the erecting of ſmall diſtilleries upon them; for theſe lands being generally ſituated at a diſtance from a populous neighbourhood, where neither manure nor a ready market can be procured for the produce in grain, the diſtillery buſineſs obviates both difficulties, as no leſs than L. 150 Sterling worth of ſtrong ſpirits may be ſent to the moſt diſtant market upon a cart drawn by two horſes, and manure in large quantities is produced for improving the barren qualities of the ſoil. Manure is the ſource of all improvements in huſbandry: It is wonderful with what oeconomy it is collected in China, where the inhabitants of great cities are not allowed to piſs againſt the wall, and every particle of manure, to the very ſhavings of a beard, is treaſured up with the greateſt care for the uſe of the huſbandmen, who, by that wiſe nation, are even held in greater eſtimation than the manufactures. The cultivation

let it be enacted, that any farmer, or other perſon connected with agriculture in England, ſhall be allowed to erect ſtills of the ſize of gallons contents, or upwards, and in Scotland of 30 gallons or upwards; which ſize of 30 gallons to be the ſmalleſt that can be entered or uſed for the purpoſe of diſtilling corn-ſpirits in Scotland, by which means the monopoly will be removed, which at preſent occaſions clandeſtine diſtillation to be carried on to a great extent, in private unentered ſtills, and will allow the manufacture of corn-ſpirits to give that aid to the farmers, for which it is ſo well adapted, by affording, at all times, a ready market for their crops of barley and hay.

And

tivation of the waſte lands in Great Britain ought undoubtedly to be placed in the ſame point of view with an infant manufacture, which muſt always be ruined by an oppreſſive tax; and it would therefore ſeem neceſſary, for encouraging their cultivation, that government will agree to commute, at leaſt for a number of years, the heavy burthens of tithes, malt and ſpirit taxes, on their produce.

And for giving the proprietors of land and farmers further encouragement for extending the cultivation of Great Britain, let it be enacted, that the monopoly obtained by the great diſtillers, by 2d Geo. III. for ſecuring to themſelves the total exportation trade be repealed, and allow Britiſh corn ſpirits to be exported when diſtilled in licenſed ſtills of any ſize, the proportional duties and bounties on the malt conſumed, and duty on the ſpirits, to be drawn back upon exportation; a ſimilar indulgence being granted for encouraging every other manufacture in the kingdom *.

For

* The Dutch carry on a great export trade in corn ſpirits. The geneva manufactured by them being held in great eſtimation over the whole world, large quantities are annually carried out by the Dutch and Daniſh ſhips to the Eaſt and Weſt Indies. It is drunk by all the Northern nations, and immenſe quantities are annually brought into Britain by the ſmugglers. The following coſt prices of the beſt Geneva, and French brandy, of the fineſt qnality, were obligingly given by

For the better preventing of clandeſtine diſtillation, let it be enacted, that no ſtill ſhall

by two merchants in Edinburgh, who lately imported theſe articles.

Beſt ſtrong Holland's geneva, coſt per Engliſh gallon,	L.	0	2	6
Exciſe and Cuſtoms, -		0	9	$6\frac{12}{20}$
Freight, inſurance, &c.		0	0	$1\frac{8}{20}$
per gallon	L.	0	12	2
Beſt Coniac brandy at Bourdeaux,	L.	0	2	0
Exciſe and Cuſtoms, -		0	9	$6\frac{12}{20}$
Freight, inſurance, &c. -		0	0	$3\frac{8}{20}$
	L.	0	11	10

The above are the current prices of the beſt ſpirits that are entered to pay the duties; but the price of the ordinary Dutch gin, which is ſmuggled into this country, runs from 14 s. to 18 s. per Fluſhing anker, of $9\frac{1}{2}$ Engliſh gallons, the value of the caſk included, which coſts a guilder, or 22 d. There is nothing that prevents Great Britain from carrying off this trade from the Dutch but the diſtillery laws. They are obliged to purchaſe of foreigners the whole of the grain from which the ſpirits are extracted; whereas Great Britain can draw immenſe reſources from the induſtry of her huſbandmen. The gentlemen who imported the high

priced

ſhall be made or tranſported from one place to another, without an order from the Collector of Exciſe in the diſtrict where the ſame is intended to be erected.

And that no malſter or brewer ſhall be allowed to diſpoſe of malt, without an order in writing from the perſon wanting the ſame; which order to be accompanied with a certificate from the exciſeman in the bounds where the malt is to be uſed, ſetting forth that the ſame is for the uſe of a certain brewer, entered diſtiller, or private family; the malt to be accompanied with a permit from the place where it was lodged, to the particular brewery or diſtillery ſpecified in the certificate.

Should

priced geneva above mentioned, informs us, that George Biſhop of Midſton's geneva is equal, in point of flavour, to the very beſt Dutch. But for carrying on this gentleman's manufacture, a particular exemption from the ſeverity of the diſtillery laws was found neceſſary, otherwiſe his manufacture would have been loſt to this country.

Should the parliament of Great Britain eſtabliſh the manufacture of corn-ſpirits, by enacting a general law to extend over the whole kingdom, for levying the duties by a licenſe on the contents of the ſtill, and thereby remove the monopoly, and free the trade from the fetters of Exciſe, much good may be expected to reſult from it, both by advancing the revenue, and encouraging the agriculture of this country.

If, however, the farmers in England have no reaſon to complain, and if the landed intereſt in that part of the united kingdom ſhould eſteem it dangerous to diffuſe the diſtillery over England for the benefit of their tenants. It may be confined as at preſent to the city of London, and other great towns in England, by fixing the minimum, or ſmalleſt ſize of an enterable ſtill at four, five, or ſix thouſand gallons, which will allow, at the ſame time, a free intercourſe betwixt the diſtillers in every part of the united kingdom and the

London

London market, it being then certain that ſpirits from Scotland muſt have paid an equal ſhare of the duties with what is manufactured in England; for it certainly can never be intended to ſhut out the diſtillers in Scotland from the greateſt market for ſpirits in Europe, provided they are fair traders, for no other reaſon than furniſhing the rectifiers in London with cheaper ſpirits than what is diſtilled in the heart of the city. Whenever the duties are levied in different manners in England and Scotland, and Scots ſpirits made liable in payment of an equalizing duty of 21 d. or 22 d. per gallon, upon entering the port of London, being nearly equal to the whole duty exacted by government, that trade will be at an end; for the quantum of tax will be fixed on Scots ſpirits at that market, when perhaps the * London diſtillers

 are

* We have been informed, by a gentleman who reſided with a rectifier in the city of London, that, upon an average, only one puncheon in five of ſpirits came in from

are not paying above the one half. This will moſt effectually break through thoſe articles of the Union, which eſtabliſh a free trade

from the diſtillers, accompanied with a permit; or, in other words, that only one fifth part of the ſpirits diſtilled in London paid duty. This fact ſeems to be corroborated by the evidence brought before the committee of the Houſe of Commons on ſmuggling, in their inquiries into the abuſe of permits; becauſe it appeared, that, in a certain period, there had been three times the quantity of Britiſh corn-ſpirits permitted from Briſtol to the London market than had paid the duties. The London diſtillers have better opportunities of defrauding government than any others who live at a diſtance from that market, and they have the advantage of being compacted into a firm and powerful body in parliament; by which means, if theſe gentlemen have the inclination to defraud, the ſcheme will be reduced into a ſmooth and eaſy ſyſtem, without the ſmalleſt danger of detection. It is therefore the opinion of many perſons in Scotland, who have been in the practice of ſending up ſpirits to the London market, that unleſs a general law is obtained, that trade will ſoon be entirely annihilated.

trade and intercourſe betwixt the kingdoms *.

But if the landed intereſt in Scotland can obtain no other relief to their tenants, but by obtaining a partial law for regulating the diſtillery in Scotland, we humbly ſubmit to their conſideration the bad effects that would reſult from fixing the duty on the

* Should the Engliſh prove jealous at the rapid advances which Scotland is making in manufactures, and endeavour to cruſh them by the ſeverity of Exciſe laws, it certainly diſcloſes but a melancholy proſpect to the view of the landed intereſt and farmers in Scotland; when it is conſidered, that the manufactures of corn-ſpirits, ſtarch, ſoap, candles, ale, &c. are all of them ſo cloſely connected with the produce of this country, and labour under the fetters of Exciſe; whenever, therefore, a plan is propoſed that will have the good effect to put a ſtop to that jealouſy betwixt the ſiſter kingdoms, ſo conſpicuous at preſent in the manufacture of corn-ſpirits, it is to be hoped that the miniſter will either adopt it, or ſhow ſufficient grounds for his refuſal.

the contents of the ſtill at a * low rate: We are afraid it will occaſion too great a conſumption of barley in Scotland, which would

* It is conjectured, that the gentlemen in Scotland are greatly miſled by the diſtillers, when they are told, that 30 s. per gallon will raiſe a permanent revenue, equal to the trifling ſum that has hitherto been collected in Scotland. There are certain reaſons which oblige diſtillers at preſent to keep ſtills in their poſſeſſion to a much greater extent than they have any occaſion for; and whenever the duty is levied on the contents of the ſtill, theſe reaſons will be removed. If a law is obtained, impoſing 30 s. per gallon in Scotland, it is not to be doubted but that the revenue will be conſiderably increaſed for one year. But the diſtillers will ſoon find out that the quantity of ſpirits which their preſent ſtills can produce, will bear no proportion to the quantity which the country can conſume; they will therefore cut down their ſtills to ſuit that demand, which muſt reduce the revenue to a trifle. We beg that the gentlemen will reflect, that the idea of L. 1 per gallon originated with four or five great diſtillers, who, without conſulting the landed intereſt in Scotland, attempted to bring in a bill, which would have given them a total monopoly of the Scots market: Matters would then have gone ſmoothly on; the preſent revenue would have been paid; the price of ſpirits would have

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